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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update 4 – 4:30 p.m.

## City continues repair work on River Road sewer pipe break

The city continued work throughout the day to repair the punctured forcemain sewer pipe on River Road, but the hole in the pipe is so large, city officials have determined they will not be able to make the repair tonight because additional equipment is needed.

Approximately 2 million gallons of wastewater flow through the RiverRoad forcemain each day. By 5 p.m. today, city officials estimate that 2 million gallons will have spilled, with about 1 million gallons, or half of that, being captured at the site by tanker trucks that have been pumping wastewater continuously since the spill was discovered. Pumping will continue throughout the night.

Wastewater not captured has spilled into the nearby Cape Fear River. The state has issued a precautionary swimming advisory for New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

The forcemain broke on Monday afternoon after a contractor for a local utility hit it while excavating to install underground utilities. The spill is located at the intersection of River Road and Shipyard Boulevard, at the entrance to the state Ports facility.

The city has also begun water quality testing and expects to have initial results tomorrow.

As a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.